

Macclesfield Rural District Council



REPORT



on the

Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1950



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

C. DOVE CORMAC, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

WILLIAM WATSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :

B. J. OVERBURY, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(Appointed—September, 1950)

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To the Chairman and Members of the Macclesfield Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Rural District of Macclesfield during the year 1950.

In addition to details of environmental hygiene, I have included in my report particulars of health services administered by the Cheshire County Council.

I wish to place on record my thanks to all members of the staff for their loyal service and to members of the Council for their continued co-operation.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

C. DOVE CORMAC,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	72,669
Population (1931 Census)	...	...	...	...	18,380
Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	19,640

Births

					Total	Male	Female
Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	270	141	129
		Illegitimate	...	...	11	6	5
Still Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	4	1	3
		Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.3
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.8
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.0
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated average population	...	...	...	...	...	...	.2
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.37

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age is shown as follows :—

						Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	6	5	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.3
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.0

Deaths

						Total	Male	Female
Deaths, all ages...	...	...	...	...	...	231	123	108
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.7
Death Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.6

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year.

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	3	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	1	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic disease	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	12	5	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	6	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	6	—	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	21	11	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	—
Diabetes	2	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	8	12
Coronary disease, angina	29	22	7
Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	2
Other heart disease	58	23	35
Other circulatory disease	12	5	7
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	7	4	3
Bronchitis	9	7	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	3	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	1	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases	15	7	8
Motor vehicle accidents	3	3	—
All other accidents	2	2	—
Suicide	2	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	1	1	—
Total	231	123	108

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis 0

Other Maternal causes... .. 0

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births—0.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Health Visiting has been carried out by Nurses on the staff of the Cheshire County Council. Infant Welfare Centres have been well attended by children from the Rural areas. These Centres are situated in Macclesfield, Bollington, Poynton and Congleton. Voluntary helpers have been particularly active at the Poynton Clinic and have contributed in no small measure to its smooth running and good attendances. Welfare Foods have been sold at all clinics at cost price to those mothers who have attended with their children.

Home Nursing Service

District Nurses serving the Macclesfield Rural District have continued to reside in Adlington, Chelford, Gawsworth, Goostrey, Monks Heath, Poynton, Prestbury, Rainow and Sutton. The Council have allocated houses to the Nurses at Chelford and Sutton and in the latter case the Nurse has already taken up residence.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Immunisation against Diphtheria and against Whooping Cough and Vaccination against Smallpox has been continued by Doctors, in their surgeries, in the patients' homes and at Welfare Centres.

No procedure for preventing a deadly disease has ever yielded such a measure of success as immunisation against Diphtheria, by removing from childhood one of the most frequent causes of fatality.

Comment made in the popular press about the association discovered between Infantile Paralysis and Immunisation has resulted in a fall of immunisation throughout the country. Immunisation does not cause Infantile Paralysis but merely increases the chances to a negligible extent of contracting it should the disease be epidemic at the time of inoculation. If immunisation is relaxed the damage done will be far greater than any damage due to Poliomyelitis through the minimal increased risk which immunisation is thought to bring about. Every child should be immunised against Diphtheria on reaching the age of one year and again on entering school.

At the present time a large scale trial is being carried out by the Medical Research Council to determine the efficacy of immunisation against Whooping Cough. Results have indicated a fairly high percentage of success with certain vaccines but that it

will be a year or two before a highly effective vaccine is available for general use. In the meantime it is considered advisable that pressure should not be exerted on parents to have their children immunised against Whooping Cough, but that immunisation should be available and carried out on request.

Since the National Health Service Act came into operation there has been a general decline in vaccination against smallpox. In the Macclesfield Rural District only 101 children under 5 years of age were vaccinated for the first time during 1950. Between the 5th July, 1948, and the 31st December, 1950, only 32.1% of children had been vaccinated by the time they had reached the age of six months. Ideally, vaccination should be carried out in infancy, on entering school, on leaving school and afterwards only when there has been exposure to smallpox.

Statistics

Diphtheria Immunisation

Age 0 to 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Age 5 to 14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Reinforcing injections	11

Whooping Cough Immunisation

All age groups...	15
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Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Combined Immunisation

All age groups...	6
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Vaccination

Primary Vaccination

Age 0 to 4	101
Age 5 to 14	9
Adults	17

Re-Vaccination

Age 0 to 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Age 5 to 14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Adults	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36

Ambulances and Sitting-case Car Transport

Cheshire County Council Ambulances based in Macclesfield have continued to serve the greater part of the district, but ambulances have also been available from Congleton, Stockport, Whaley Bridge, Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and Sandbach.

The ambulance and sitting-case Car Services provided under section 27 of the National Health Service Act is available for those patients who, on strictly medical grounds are unfit to use public transport. Much comment has from time to time been made about how this part of the Health Service has been abused. Instances of abuse have undoubtedly occurred, but in many cases it has been apparent rather than real. I believe that the large increase in car mileages is due to more people having made use of a service to which they have been entitled under the National Health Service Act.

Domestic Help Service

The Cheshire County Council have continued to provide a Home Help Service under Section 29 of the National Health Service Act for persons who are ill or lying in, for expectant mothers, for mental defectives, for aged persons and for children not over compulsory school age. One permanent Home Help residing in Macclesfield is employed by the Divisional Health Committee for work in the rural area and casual and part-time Home Helps have been employed according to need.

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in the Macclesfield Rural District during 1950 are as follows :—

Home Helps employed :

Full Time	...	...	...	1
Temporary	...	...	...	6
Casual	...	...	...	6

Applications received :

Confinement	...	...	18
Aged and Infirm	...	...	11
Sickness	...	...	5
Tuberculosis	...	...	—

Cases attended :

Confinement	...	...	10
Aged and Infirm	...	...	10
Sickness	...	...	3
Tuberculosis	...	...	—

This amenity has been gradually expanding, and owing to increased demand, particularly for the care of the aged and infirm, more casual and temporary Home Helps have been employed.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases

The following table indicates the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the total number of deaths.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1950

Disease	Age distribution											Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever	—	1	3	5	4	16	5	1	2	—	—	—	17	—
Whooping Cough	4	10	5	17	7	30	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles.....	8	17	28	16	15	76	14	1	3	1	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	3	4	1	1	3	5	4	—	7
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	2	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	7	—	—	—	13	—

Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1950 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1941.

TUBERCULOSIS — NOTIFICATIONS — 1941 to 1950

	1941		1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 — 5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
5 — 15	1	3	...	3	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
15 — 25	5	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
25 — 35	4	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
35 — 45	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
45 — 55	2	...	3	...	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...
55 — 65	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 — 5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
5 — 15	1	5	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 — 25	1	1	...	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
25 — 35	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
35 — 45	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...
45 — 55	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
55 — 65	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	22	14	13	12	7	6	11	1	7	4	6	6	6	2	4	1	11	3	6	2

TUBERCULOSIS — DEATHS — 1941 to 1950

	1941		1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Up to 1 year	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 — 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 — 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 — 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 — 35	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
35 — 45	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
45 — 55	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	2	...
55 — 65	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
65 and over	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
FEMALE	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Up to 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 — 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 — 15	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 — 25	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 — 35	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...
35 — 45	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 — 55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
55 — 65	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and over	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	6	2	3	1	2	1	9	1	6	..	7	...	6	1	4	...	4	...	4	1

The average notification rate in Macclesfield Rural District of all forms of Tuberculosis per 100,000 population from 1941—1950 is 75.7, whilst the average death rate from this disease over the same period is 51. These rates in England and Wales in 1948 were 121 and 51 respectively. More recent statistics show improvement both in notification and deaths. Improvement in the death rate in particular has no doubt been brought about by newly discovered methods of treatment.

The need for re-housing tuberculous patients living under adverse conditions has been fully appreciated by the Council, and careful consideration has been given to every housing application when tuberculosis has been brought forward as a means of gaining priority. It was not found necessary during the year under review to make any recommendation regarding such cases, as those enquired into were already living under favourable conditions.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the information contained in the following sections of this report.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water

With the exception of the Parish of Kettleshulme the supply of water to the parts of the district served by public mains has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. Some difficulty in the Pexhill area of Siddington has been experienced in obtaining a sufficient supply at times of peak demand when milk is being cooled. This, however, is an engineering difficulty which can be overcome.

Samples of water taken from the public supply in Kettleshulme revealed that the water was polluted. The facts were reported to the Council and instructions given for the gathering grounds to be fenced off. It is hoped that the scheme for augmenting the water supply, together with the installation of a chlorinating plant, will provide a public supply which will be satisfactory in quality and adequate for the present and immediate future needs of the village.

The reservoir at Gin Clough, Rainow, which has a storage capacity of 50,000 gallons was completed and brought into service during the year. It has been possible to supply the houses at Gin Clough with water, but the watermain taken over from Messrs. Mellor and Allen was found to be unsatisfactory and consequently it has not been possible to utilise the supply from this reservoir for the southern part of Rainow beyond Kerridge End.

The sinking of the borehole at Pott Shrigley was completed towards the end of 1949, but the laying of mains has not yet been commenced. There is a great need for an adequate water supply in this area.

The Parish of Marton is still without a piped water supply. Its provision would enable houses to be erected by the Council, and would satisfy the demands of agriculture for a supply of proved quality.

Arrangements regarding the extension of watermains to Over Alderley are reaching finality and a starting date has been allocated by the Ministry of Health.

The parishes of Lyme Handley, Poynton-with-Worth, Great Warford, Chorley, Nether Alderley and the Newton Ward of Mottram St. Andrew are within the statutory area of supply of the Stockport Corporation.

The Council has a small source works at North Rode, supplying the parishes to the south of the area. The Parish of Kettleshulme is also supplied from a source works owned by the Council.

Water for the remaining parishes is purchased from the Stockport Corporation, the Borough of Macclesfield and the Urban District of Bollington.

None of the water passing into the public mains has been shown to have a solvent action on lead.

Twenty-eight samples from private supplies were satisfactory and thirty-four were unsatisfactory.

The number of houses having a piped supply of water direct to the house is 4,598, representing a population of approximately 16,087.

Drainage and Sewerage

No new works of sewerage and sewage disposal were carried out during the year. The result is that those parishes mentioned in previous reports which are in dire need of public sewers, are still the subject of complaints. In addition, the Alderley Edge disposal works, which are situated in the Parish of Chorley, are overloaded and causing a continuing nuisance, and the effluent from the Wilmslow southern works, which passes through the Parish of Great Warford, has given rise to complaints from the Parish Council because of its offensiveness. Too great stress cannot be laid on the urgent necessity of providing a public sewerage system for the Langley area of Sutton, Kettleshulme, Bosley, Mottram St. Andrew, Chorley and Great Warford.

Public Cleansing

The Council have purchased a building in King Edward Street, Macclesfield, to house the refuse collection vehicles. The garage is close to the Council Offices and has sanitary accommodation for the men. The premises are a great improvement on the small wooden garage previously used in which there were no facilities for carrying out running repairs, and no amenities for the workmen.

A new Dennis 10 cubic yard side loading vehicle has been purchased and there is now one vehicle in reserve in case of breakdowns.

Requests have been received for a weekly service from a number of residents in the areas where a fortnightly collection is now given, but consideration of these requests has been referred to the meeting when the annual estimates are considered for 1951/1952.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following is a summary of the principal work which has been undertaken under the Public Health and Housing Acts. One hundred and twenty-two complaints were received and dealt with. Eighty-three preliminary notices and twelve statutory notices were served.

Record of Nuisances Abated and Work Carried Out

The following tables summarise some of the major sanitary matters dealt with:—

Dampness remedied, roofs, gutters, r.w.ps. etc. repaired	...	24
Housing defects repaired	... ..	21
Mains water supply provided	... ..	13
Private water supply provided or existing supply improved	...	18
Drains repaired or cleansed	... ..	24
New sinks provided	... ..	1
Water closets repaired or renewed	... ..	5
Privies converted to W.C's	... ..	2
Privies converted to pails...	... ..	1
Pails renewed	... ..	10
Dustbins provided	... ..	98
Dirty premises cleansed	... ..	3
Accumulations removed	... ..	3
Nuisances from animals abated	... ..	2

Inspections

Dwelling Houses under Public Health & Housing Acts	...	123
Water Supply	... ..	98
Water samples analysed	... ..	84
Drainage and Sewerage	... ..	170
Verminous and dirty premises	... ..	10
Foul accumulations	... ..	3
Animals kept in insanitary conditions	... ..	5
Refuse accommodation	.. ...	152
Public cleansing	... ..	116
Infectious disease	... ..	16
Premises disinfected	... ..	10
Rats and mice	... ..	30
Schools	... ..	8
Factories	... ..	6
Milk and dairies	... ..	10
Shops re meat and other foods	... ..	20
Food preparing premises	... ..	27
Ice cream premises...	... ..	63

Inspections—continued

Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	284
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Interviews with owners and contractors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74

Tents, Vans and Sheds

As the result of a resolution of the Council asking for a report on the camping sites, a detailed survey has been carried out with a view to bringing as many temporary structures as possible into control under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. At the end of the year the survey had only been started, but there is no doubt that it is most desirable that some measure of control should be obtained not only from the standpoint of amenity but also on the grounds of public health. In the main these temporary structures are used for week-end recreational purposes only, by persons living in adjoining populous areas. The number of sheds and caravans occupied permanently was found to be proportionately small. There is no doubt, however, that there has been exploitation of the housing shortage by the selling or letting of sheds formerly used only for week-end occupation.

Rats and Mice Destruction

A statutory obligation was placed on the Authority by the coming into operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, to inspect the district for infestations, carry out the destruction of rats and mice on their own properties and to carry out the work of extermination either by agreement or in default,

The test baiting of sewers was carried out and only on one small length was any infestation found. Set out below is a summary of the work carried out during the first nine months of the operation of the Act.

Number of Properties infested by rats or mice	...	...	...	...	...	80
Number of Properties inspected	...	...	...	...	...	206
Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	768
Number of Treatments carried out	...	...	...	...	...	80

Housing

Number of houses erected by Private Enterprise	...	...	...	3
Number of houses erected by Local Authority...	...	...	...	72
				—
	Total	...	...	75
				—

Inspection of Dwelling Houses

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	34
(b)	Number of inspections for the purpose ...	123
2.	Remedy of defects during the year by service of informal notices ...	53
3.	Remedy of defects during the year by service of formal notices ...	13
4.	Number of demolition orders made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	—
5.	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (including houses under Demolition Orders prior to 1948) ...	2
6.	Number of houses subject to Demolition Orders, occupied under licence ...	10
7.	Demolition Orders quashed under Section 2 of the Housing Act, 1949 ...	2

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk

There are one hundred and eighty-two distributors of milk within the area of the Macclesfield Rural District. The majority of these are producer retailers.

Licenses issued in connection with the Milk Special Designations Order are set out below.

	Dealers' Licences	Supplementary Licences
Pasteurised	3	4
Sterilised	4	4
Tuberculin Tested	5	4

Meat and Other Foods

All home-killed meat for consumption in the area is slaughtered within the Borough of Macclesfield and is inspected before distribution to the retailers.

There are five licensed slaughterhouses in the area. One is used extensively during the winter months for the slaughtering of cottagers' pigs.

The following articles of food were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :—

Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	293 lbs.
Imported Meat	...	...	...	262 lbs.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	2 tins
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	3 tins
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	3 tins
Cheese	...	...	...	21 lbs.
Liquid Egg	...	...	...	56 lbs.

Food and Food Preparing Premises

An intensive inspection of the district was carried out with a view to discovering to what extent premises were not complying with the Ice Cream Regulations.

A table is set out below showing details of premises registered :

Premises Registered for the Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream :

Hot mix	...	...	...	5
Cold mix	...	...	...	2
				7

Premises Registered for the Sale of Ice Cream

... .. 27

Of the premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream by the hot mix process, one occupier decided to discontinue the manufacture of ice cream entirely and another has temporarily discontinued the manufacture pending the construction of new premises. In a third case new premises were under construction at the end of the year and should be completed in time for the beginning of the season.

The Local Authority has made application to the Ministry of Food for confirmation of the Food Byelaws. It is hoped that this additional legislation will facilitate the control of the sale of food within the Rural District.

Factories Act, 1937

Routine inspections of factories are made from time to time and the following table indicates the position for 1950.

Premises	Number on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	2	2	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	24	21	3	—
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	26	23	3	—

Cases in which defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were		Number of cases in which defects were referred		Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	...
Overcrowding
Unreasonable temperature
Inadequate ventilation
Ineffective drainage of floors
Sanitary conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	2	...
(b) Unsuitable or defective
(c) Not separate for sexes
Totals	4	...

